

# Ephesians: What's God Saying to You? What are You Going to Do About It?

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## I. Introduction

Every notice how many internal conversations you have? We're constantly talking to ourselves. Why is that and is anyone else involved? When something good or bad happens, what interpretation do we give it and where did we get it? Was it just us or us and someone else? How do we ensure that our internal dialogue takes us to the right place instead of misery?

## II. Ephesians: What is God Saying to You and What are You Going to Do About It?

### Chapter 6

In an instant we became God's children; the moment we believe in Christ, we become forever united to Him, 2:5-6. Because of this, God expects us to live differently, 4:1-3; 5:1-21. The way we talk must be different and the way we treat others must be different: the way we behave in our marriages, as parents, and the way we treat our boss or employees, it must all be different, 4:25-32; 5:22-6:9. But there's a problem: we have an enemy who's constantly attacking us and we can't see him, 6:11-12, 16. He knows us well, in fact, he used to control us; he had our thinking so twisted that we did whatever he wanted, 2:2; 4:17-19.

*How Satan attacks and what we can do about it.* Every time something significant happens, Satan is lying in wait. He wants to be the one to tell us what it means and what to do about it. His interpretation is usually negative and his advice is designed to get us away from God. Once he isolates us, he begins to lie. And once we believe his lies, he cements our demise further by accusing us. His goal is to do as much damage to us and everyone around us (John 10:10). What's more amazing is that we're not even conscious of it. In our minds, we're simply talking to ourselves. Ever notice how often you talk to yourself and how negative it always is? Well, it's not just you talking to yourself; Satan is helping you think through things. And before you know it, you're reacting based on what he told you and the outcome is always bad. God's answer to Satan's assaults is for us to think with His mind, i.e., when we look at the world around us, who's telling us what it means, Jesus or Satan (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)? Thus, every moment, we're either walking towards God or away from Him. We either believe what Satan said or Jesus. We see this play out in Job's life.

### **How Satan attacks, a case study: Job,**

**Job 1-3**, God allowed Satan to attack Job, to take everything away from him: his wealth, family, and health. In fact, Scripture says that God was the One who actually did all this to him, 2:3. Initially, Job responded with a clear mind, with God's truth, even though Satan tried to get him to curse God through his own wife, 2:9. He understood that it was God who had done all this to him. And precisely because he knew that it was Him who had done this to him, Job actually had peace in the midst of his unbelievable suffering, 1:21; 2:10. Next, Job's three friends show up to mourn with him and they too initially listen to God's voice not Satan's. Thus, they sit with their friend for a week and mourn with him in silence. But then Job focuses on his tremendous suffering and opens his mouth: he wishes that he had never been born.....Satan's lies designed to isolate, deceive, and accuse begin to work, 3:1-26.

**Job 4-31**, after comforting Job, his three friends begin to accuse him of sin: Eliphaz accuses Job of sin three times, 4:7-9; 15:5-6; 22:4-5. Why is Eliphaz accusing Job of sin? He believes that suffering = punishment for sin. So when he looks at Job's tremendous suffering, he concludes as he said to Job, "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off? Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of His anger they are consumed," 4:7-9. Where did he get this idea; who told Eliphaz this?

Notice who whispered in Eliphaz's ear, 4:12-21—does this sound like Satan or the Lord? This spirit (Ephesians 2:2) whispering to him sounds like God; what he's telling Eliphaz sounds godly (4:17-21), but is it? On the surface it sure does sound like God. After all, no mortal is more righteous than God; if God finds error with angels (the brazenness of Satan after what he did to God), certainly no man is error-free. It all sounds godly, biblical even. But what's the context? These words aren't said in a vacuum; they're said in connection to Job and his suffering. What does Satan want Eliphaz to believe about Job's suffering and why? He wants Eliphaz to believe that Job is suffering because of his sin, that Job is declaring himself more righteous than God, that he's saying to God, "Why did You give me life if You're going to give me all this suffering? I've been righteous; I don't deserve this!" Satan wants Eliphaz to attack Job and accuse him of self-righteousness, to believe that Job is a sinner who deserves the suffering God gave him, so that through Eliphaz, Satan can get Job to curse God. When something goes wrong in your life, who's whispering in your ear? Who's telling you that what you're about to do is right?

Now how do we know that this spirit that Eliphaz heard was not God but Satan? Is Eliphaz right that Job is suffering because of his sin? NO, Job's the most righteous man on the planet; God Himself said so, 1:1, 8. Additionally, look what God says about Eliphaz's comments, 42:7-8. This is how you can tell who's talking to you; does it draw you closer to God or further away from Him? Does it take you where God wants you to be or Satan? Does Job wishing he'd never been born draw him closer to God or not? Does Eliphaz accusing Job of sin draw Job closer to God or further away? Does it fulfill God's plan or Satan's? By the way, does Eliphaz think that he's speaking God's truth, that he's right about God's opinion of Job? Yes, he does. That's how good Satan is at getting us to buy his lies and then do what he wants.

Bildad not only accuses Job of sin twice, he says that his children died for their sin, 8:4, 5-6, 20; 18:5ff. What's the reason given for Job's sons' and daughters' deaths? Was it because of their sin? No, it was because God allowed Satan to kill them; in fact, it was God's doing, 2:3. So who wants Bildad to believe that God is punishing Job for his sins? Who wants Bildad to accuse Job of sin in such a horrific way in 18:5ff and why? Recall Satan's three weapons: Isolation, Deception, and Accusation. Satan wants to get Job away from God. If he can get Job away from God, he will then deceive him. And finally, he'll accuse him, all in hopes that Job will curse God to His face. That's what Satan's done through Job's friends. In Job 3, Job isolated himself; he walked away from God himself by focusing on his suffering. Once he was away from God, Satan began to deceive him by convincing him that he should have never been born. Now, Satan is accusing him through his friends. Everything his friends are saying is designed to get Job further away from God, to further deceive him, and accuse him.

### III. Conclusion

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*